



Dear Constituents:

I am pleased to submit IDEM's 1999 Annual Report on Pollution Prevention in Indiana. Since the inception of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance on July 1, 1990, IDEM's pollution prevention program has worked to encourage Indiana manufacturers and the agency to incorporate pollution prevention into planning and daily operations. With the beginning of 1997, IDEM entered into a formal partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that established pollution prevention as the preferred approach to address environmental issues. Through our Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement with EPA, we have established pollution prevention as one of Indiana's top strategic environmental priorities.



The Indiana Industrial Pollution Prevention and Safe Materials Act of 1990 requires IDEM to prepare a report describing our pollution prevention activities and to make recommendations to the Indiana General Assembly. This annual report highlights the major pollution prevention activities of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance from July 1, 1997, through September 30, 1999. As you will read, these efforts are vast in scope and powerful in their impact on Indiana's industries, citizens and environment. OPPTA staff are dedicated to assisting businesses in understanding and applying pollution prevention practices.

Many of the projects and activities described here would not have succeeded without our partners in pollution prevention. These include the Indiana Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute, the Clean Manufacturing Technology Board and the Indiana Partners for Pollution Prevention, which is a group made up of Indiana business leaders in pollution prevention.

This year we included a brief summary of Toxic Release Inventory data for 1997 in the report. A draft version was released August 17, 1999, and made available for public comment for 45 days. This final report responds to the public comments received during this period.

We have come a long way in promoting and adopting pollution prevention in Indiana since the inception of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance. However, much more work remains to be done. With the sound foundation laid by OPPTA, CMTI and the Indiana Partners for Pollution Prevention, I am confident we can continue to build industry support and involvement in pollution prevention well into the next millennium and make Indiana a cleaner, healthier place for us all.

Sincerely,

Lori F. Kaplan
COMMISSIONER

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Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance
P.O. Box 6015, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6015

Writers

Harry Davis
Marc Hancock
Tami Johnson
Paula Smith
Cheri Storms
Charlie Sullivan
Karen Teliha
David Wintz

Executive Manager

John Chavez

Project Manager

Hani Sharaya

Graphic Designer

Denise Szocka

Web address:

www.state.in.us/idem/oppta

For assistance:

(800) 451-6027, press 0 and ask
for ext. 2-8172, or (317) 232-8172

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